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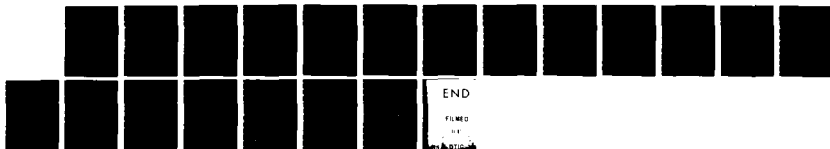
THE ANOMALOUS MAGNETORESISTANCE OF GRAPHITE AT HIGH
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G TIMP ET AL. MAY 83 AFOSR-TR-83-0760 F49620-83-C-0011

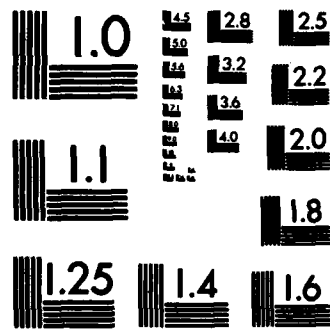
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The Anomalous Magnetoresistance of Graphite at High Magnetic fields

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Abstract

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Introduction

The high field magnetoresistance anomaly in pristine graphite^{1,2} has been examined in detail in order to further test the applicability of the theoretical model for this high magnetic field phase transition proposed by Yoshioka and Fukuyama.³ According to their model, the high field magnetoresistance anomaly is associated with the formation of an electronic charge density wave (CDW) with an incommensurate c-axis periodicity. The predictions of this model for the electronic phase transition are consistent with the observed temperature dependence of the critical field for the magnetoresistance anomaly.^{1,2} This theory was recently extended by Yoshioka⁴ to calculate the dependence of the electronic phase transition on the angle θ between the magnetic field direction and the c-axis. The present work is directed toward providing an experimental test for the predicted angular dependence. Earlier experimental work² indicated that unresolved fine structure was also associated with the occurrence of the magnetoresistance anomaly. In the present work, the unusual properties of this fine structure (which is periodic in magnetic field H) is examined in more detail.

To investigate these unusual high field phenomena, we have used very carefully selected crystals of kish graphite. Our results on the magnitude of the magnetoresistance anomaly and the additional fine structure associated with this anomaly suggest that an additional mechanism may play a role in this high field regime.

Experimental

The kish graphite samples were prepared by precipitation from molten Ni and were later purified by heating in either F_2 or Cl_2 gas.⁵ Though kish graphite is classified as a single crystal form of graphite, actual kish graphite samples used in these experiments normally contain several crystallites within their sample volume. Each crystallite typically shows a c-axis coherence distance of ~ 1000 Å and resolution-limited (hk0) x-ray line widths, indicating basal plane coherence distances in excess of $1 \mu m$. A highly effective characterization method for selecting samples that show a large high field magnetoresistance anomaly was the identification of samples exhibiting large Shubnikov-de Haas oscillations in the low field range (below 8 T).

The graphite crystals were polygonal but irregular in shape. To avoid sample damage, the crystals were not trimmed. The transverse magnetoresistance was measured using a van der Pauw geometry;⁶ the length to width ratio of typical samples was ~ 3 . The contacts were made using a conducting silver epoxy. Under typical conditions, the DC resistance measurement was taken at a constant current of $100 \mu A$. The voltage was detected by a Keithley 140 DC amplifier; the data acquisition was by computer. The magnetic field resolution required to observe the fine structure associated with the magnetoresistance anomaly is $(\Delta H/H) \sim 0.1 T/25 T$ or about 0.4 %. Thus, for typical magnetic field sweep rates (10 T in 10 minutes) the detection circuit response time should not exceed 100 msec.

The transverse magnetoresistance was measured as a function of angle θ between the magnetic field and the c-axis of graphite. The design of the sample holder was such that θ could be varied while the samples remained essentially centered in the magnet. Expected magnetic field variations due to variations in sample position are less than 0.1% of the total field. The angle θ was determined from the known angular dependence of the SdH oscillations in graphite;⁷ specifically, the 7.25 T spin-split cross section (associated with the Landau level $n = 0$, $\sigma = +$) was used for calibration. The sample holder position corresponding to $\theta = 0^\circ$ was found by minimizing the value of magnetic field associated with the $n = 0$, $\sigma = +$ Landau level crossing of the Fermi surface.

A transverse magnetoresistance geometry was maintained so that the current in the samples was always perpendicular to the magnetic field, independent of angle. Magnetic fields up to 29 T were made available by using a hybrid magnet.⁸ The hybrid magnet consists of an outer superconducting magnet generating a field from 5 T up to 7 T and a water-cooled Bitter magnet supplying a field which is variable from 0 to 22 T. The diameter of the magnet bore is 31 mm.

A ³He evaporation refrigerator was used to attain low temperatures from 1.9 K down to 0.5 K. The samples were directly immersed in ³He liquid. The temperature was determined by measuring the saturated vapor pressure of ³He with a diaphragm-type pressure gauge (an MKS Baratron).

Results

The galvanomagnetic properties of graphite in the quantum limit have been previously examined.⁹⁻²² The results can be summarized with reference to Fig. 1 which shows the transverse magnetoresistance at $\theta = 0 \pm 2^\circ$ as a function of magnetic field. Below 7.3 T, Shubnikov-de Haas (SdH) oscillations are observed corresponding to two distinct extremal Fermi surface cross sections at 4.8 T (hole pocket) and 6.6 T (electron pocket).⁹⁻¹⁰ The saturation and the negative slope of the magnetoresistance above 12 T have been associated by Iye et al.² with a linear increase in carrier concentration with increasing H .¹¹ The anomalous increase observed in the magnetoresistance for fields greater than 22 T has been studied experimentally by Tanuma et al.¹ and Iye et al.² The onset of the anomaly, defined by H_C (indicated by the arrow in Fig. 1), shows a striking temperature dependence which is apparently inconsistent with a single particle description of the magnetoresistance. Because of the high static field capability and crystal quality, we were able to resolve additional oscillatory features in the magnetoresistance at fields greater than the onset of the anomaly, as discussed in detail below.

The temperature dependence of H_C , the onset of the anomaly, observed in this work is summarized in the inset of Fig. 2. H_C was estimated from the maximum in the slope of resistivity as a function of magnetic field. The results for the "phase boundary" of H_C vs T_C measured here (represented by points) agree within experimental error with previous measurements (solid curve)^{1,2} represented by the functional form:

$$T_C = \tau_C \exp[-\eta_C/H_C] \quad (1)$$

in which $\tau_c = 94.9$ K and $\eta_c = 112$ T. As proposed by Yoshioka and Fukuyama,² the development of a gap at the Fermi level due to the Coulomb interaction between carriers would be manifested by a thermally activated transverse magnetoresistance with a phase boundary given by the dashed curve in the inset to Fig. 2. On the basis of this comparison, an identification of the high field magnetoresistance anomaly in graphite was made with the charge density wave instability model of Yoshioka and Fukuyama.^{1,2}

To provide a further test for this identification, Yoshioka extended the model to consider the angular dependence of the charge density wave (CDW) phase transition. For the angular range accessible in the present experiment, his calculation of the angular dependence of H_c predicts that at constant temperature, $H_c(\theta)$ is approximately given by

$$H_c(0) / H_c(\theta) = \cos(\theta) \quad (2)$$

This result is physically reasonable since only the projection of the field onto the c-axis of graphite is expected to contribute to the CDW instability.

Figure 3 shows high field magnetoresistance measurements at several values of θ for the same sample as in Fig. 1, at the same temperature $T = 0.66$ K, and at the same value of the sample current $I = 100$ μ A. The data show that at constant temperature and current, the magnetic field onset of the magnetoresistance anomaly H_c increases with increasing θ . At the highest available field of 28.5 T, the magnetoresistance anomaly could not be seen beyond $\theta = 37.9^\circ$.

Measurements of the angular dependence of H_c were made on 4 samples for a variety of temperatures and current levels. The results indicate that H_c is not dependent on the current level, at least for $I < 250 \mu A$ (higher current levels caused some ohmic heating). The functional dependence of H_c on θ at constant T was found to be similar for all 4 samples that were investigated. Results for $H_c(0) / H_c(\theta)$ are plotted in Fig. 2 as points for all samples, temperatures and current levels. The error associated with the estimate of H_c increases with increasing angle from 0.25% at $\theta = 0^\circ$ to 1% at $\theta = 40^\circ$ because the onset of the transition is less abrupt as the angle increases. The error arising from the determination of θ is less than 2° .

The experimental points fit well to a $\cos \theta$ dependence (solid curve), in agreement with Yoshioka's model for this range of θ .⁴ These results provide additional support to the identification of the high field magnetoresistance anomaly with the charge density wave electronic transition. We note that the angular dependence of H_c is similar to the angular dependence of the 7.25 T SdH oscillations. We further note that the region of saturation in the magnetoresistance below H_c and the region of negative slope beyond H_c show an angular dependence that is distinct from that of the anomaly.

The most striking and novel features discovered in these experiments are the periodic variations in the resistance which occur (Fig. 4) only above the onset of the magnetoresistance anomaly ($H > H_c$). Figure 4 shows an expanded view of the magnetoresistance record in Fig. 1 for $H > 20$ T, $I = 500 \mu A$, $\theta = 0^\circ$. The amplitude of the oscillations shows a phase change of π near the magnetic field, H_m , corresponding to the maximum of the anomaly. The oscillations are periodic in H and have been reproducibly observed in two of the five samples investigated.

The non-oscillatory component of the signal was estimated from a lowpass digitally filtered version of the record shown in Fig. 4a where the magnetoresistance anomaly exhibited no structure. The oscillatory features were obtained by subtraction of this non-oscillatory estimate from a synchronized version of the original resistance data record. The data records were synchronized using a linear interpolation scheme over the magnetic field range of interest.

The resulting oscillatory structure associated with the anomaly, shown as Fig. 4b, confirms the periodicity in magnetic field and the lineshape reversal of the fine structure near H_m noted above. Because the variation in the resistance appeared periodic in H , the data were analyzed using a standard discrete Fourier transform algorithm. (The data were also transformed assuming a periodicity in $1/H$, and no appreciable frequency components were observed.) The data record, for the oscillatory component was digitally filtered to reduce side lobe contributions in the corresponding transform arising from the rectangular window function. The resulting power spectrum yields a fundamental period of 0.16 T, with second and third order harmonic content; the corresponding periods are 0.079 T and 0.056 T in second and third order, respectively. A periodicity of 0.17 T was observed in another sample which exhibited the fine structure in the resistance anomaly. Because of systematic errors associated with the magnet calibration and the number of periods counted, the difference between the two fundamental periods observed in different samples is not significant.

The data in Fig. 1 suggest that the magnetoresistance can be considered as the sum of a non-oscillatory, $R_{NOS}(H)$, and an oscillatory, $R_{OS}(H)$, contribution

$$R(H) = R_{NOS}(H) + R_{OS}(H) \quad (4)$$

in which $R_{NOS}(H)$ is associated with the one electron contribution from electrons in band states scattered from phonons or defects, and with the mechanism responsible for the magnetoresistance anomaly and $R_{OS}(H)$ is the corresponding contribution which is periodic in H .

Analysis of the amplitude of the oscillatory component (Fig. 4b) indicates that at constant current, $R_{OS}(H)$ has the functional form

$$R_{OS}(H) = r_{OS}(H) \{H/R \partial R/\partial H - 1\} \theta(H - H_c) \quad (5)$$

in which the step function $\theta(x) = 1$ for $x > 0$ and $\theta(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$. The oscillatory factor $r_{OS}(H)$ can be approximated as a sum of δ -functions,

$$r_{OS}(H) = \sum_l \delta(g\mu_B H - l\epsilon_0) \quad (6)$$

where the g -factor g is taken as 2, μ_B is the Bohr magneton, and the energy $\epsilon_0 = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ eV is found from a fit to the experimental results of Fig. 4b, and is given by the dotted curve. It is of interest that ϵ_0 is of the order of the spin-orbit splitting of the graphite π -bands. Finally, the envelope function $\{H/R \partial R/\partial H - 1\}$ depends on $R(H)/H$ and its derivative. We note that $R(H)/H$ is related to the variable E/H , the ratio of the electric to magnetic fields in the sample, since for the constant current conditions of this

experiment $E/H = (I/L) [R(H)/H]$ where I is the constant current and L is the length of the sample. The empirical dependence of the amplitude of the oscillations in Fig. 4b on $R(H)/H$ and its derivative thus suggests that the oscillatory behavior depends on the variable (E/H) .

We note that the wave functions for the Landau levels $\phi_n(y - y_0)$ in crossed electric and magnetic fields depend on E/H , through the center location y_0 of the harmonic oscillator, $y_0 = (\hbar k_H / m^* - E/H) / \omega_c$. The variable E/H causes a displacement of y_0 , as also occurs in the Laughlin theory of the Quantum Hall Effect.²² These observations suggest that the mechanism for the oscillations periodic in H might be related to the in-plane quantization of the harmonic oscillator wave functions. This is in contrast to the suggested mechanism for the high field magnetoresistance anomaly, of a charge density wave instability along the c -direction.

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Figure captions.

Fig. 1. High field transverse magnetoresistance of kish graphite.

Fig. 2. A plot summarizing the angular dependence of the anomaly. The inset shows the temperature dependence of the field value H_c .

Fig. 3. Angular dependence of the magnetoresistance of graphite at constant current level and constant temperature.

Fig. 4. (a) Expanded view of the high field magnetoresistance anomaly.

(b) The corresponding oscillatory component and envelope function (see text).

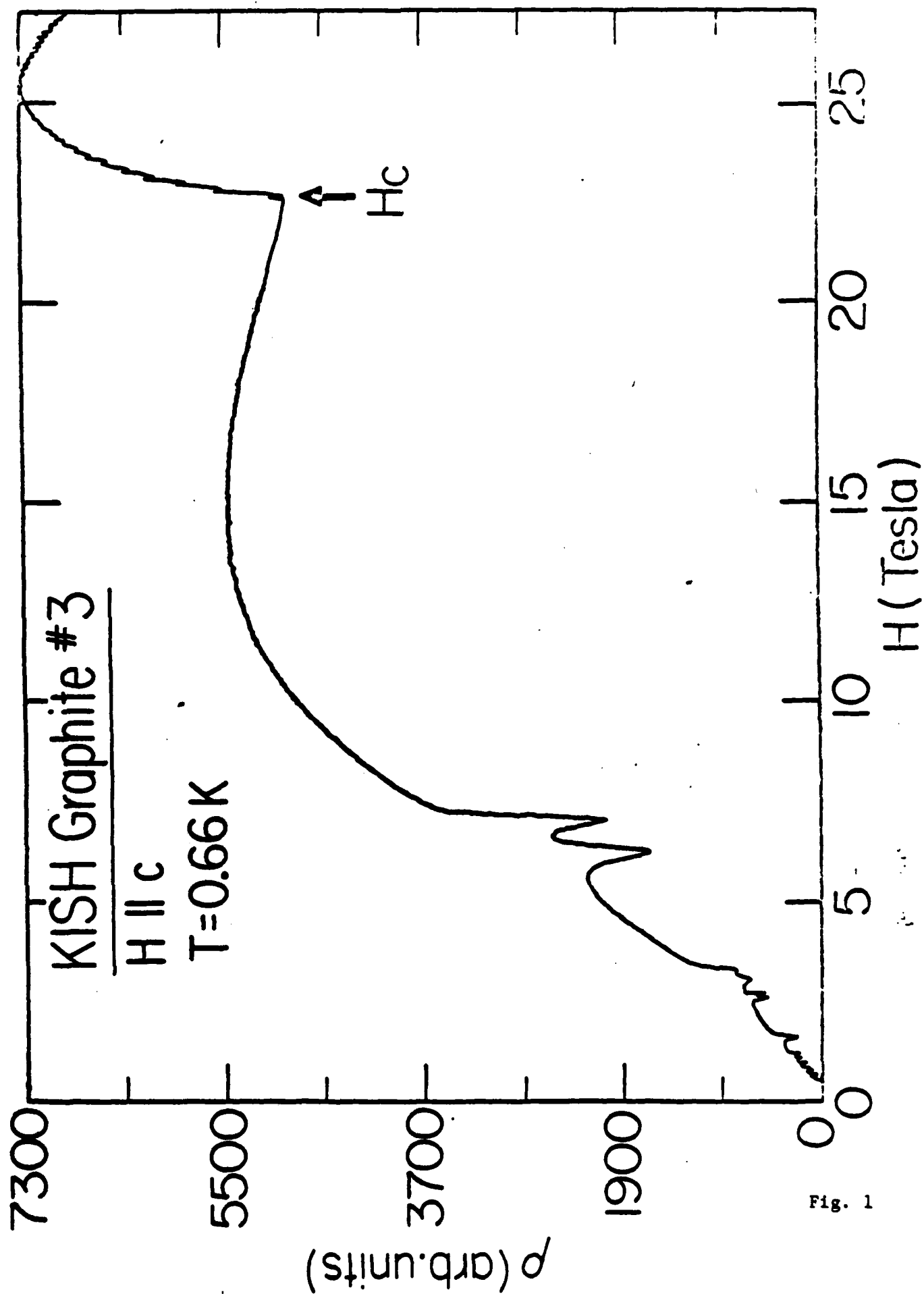


Fig. 1

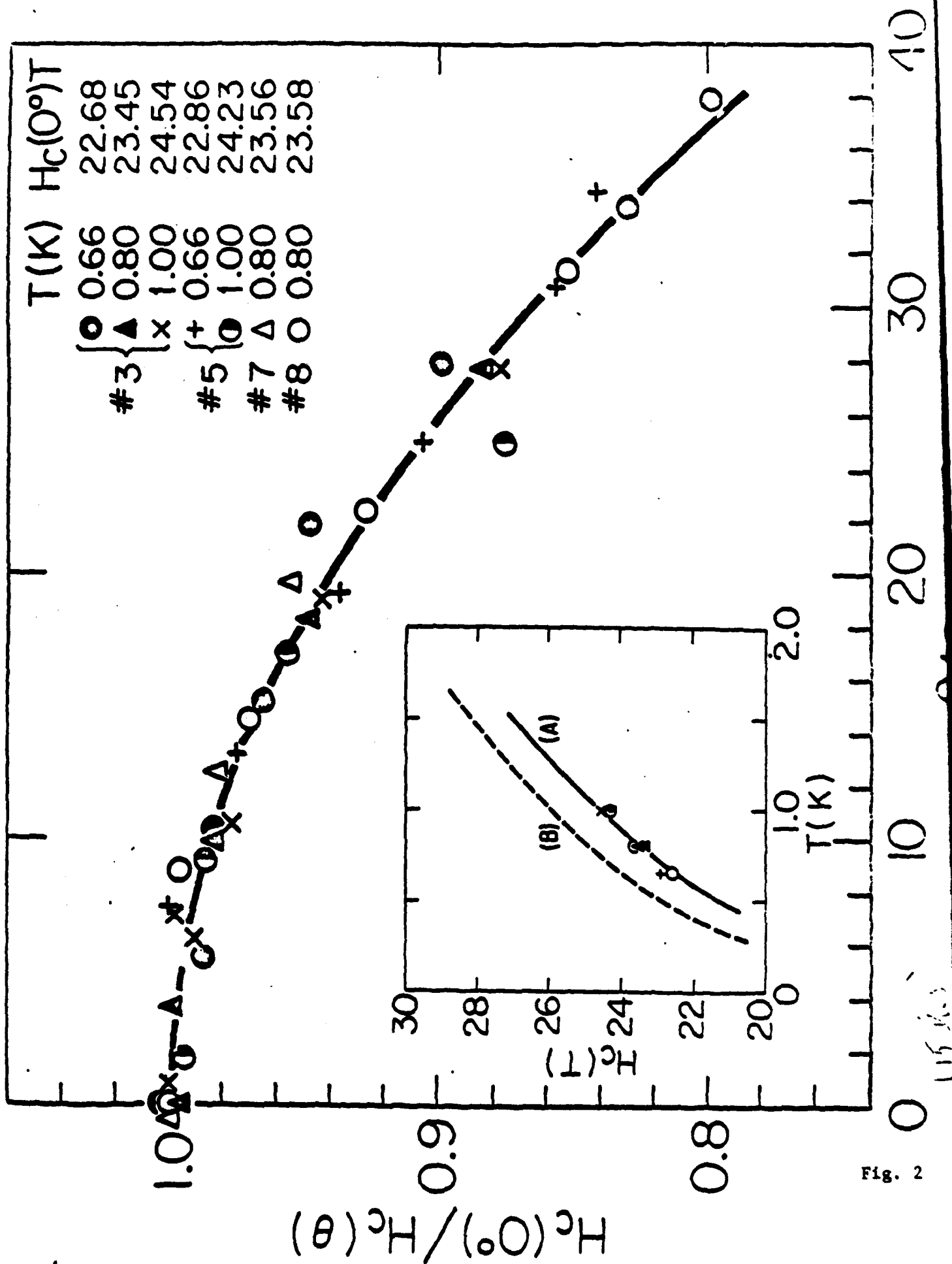


Fig. 2

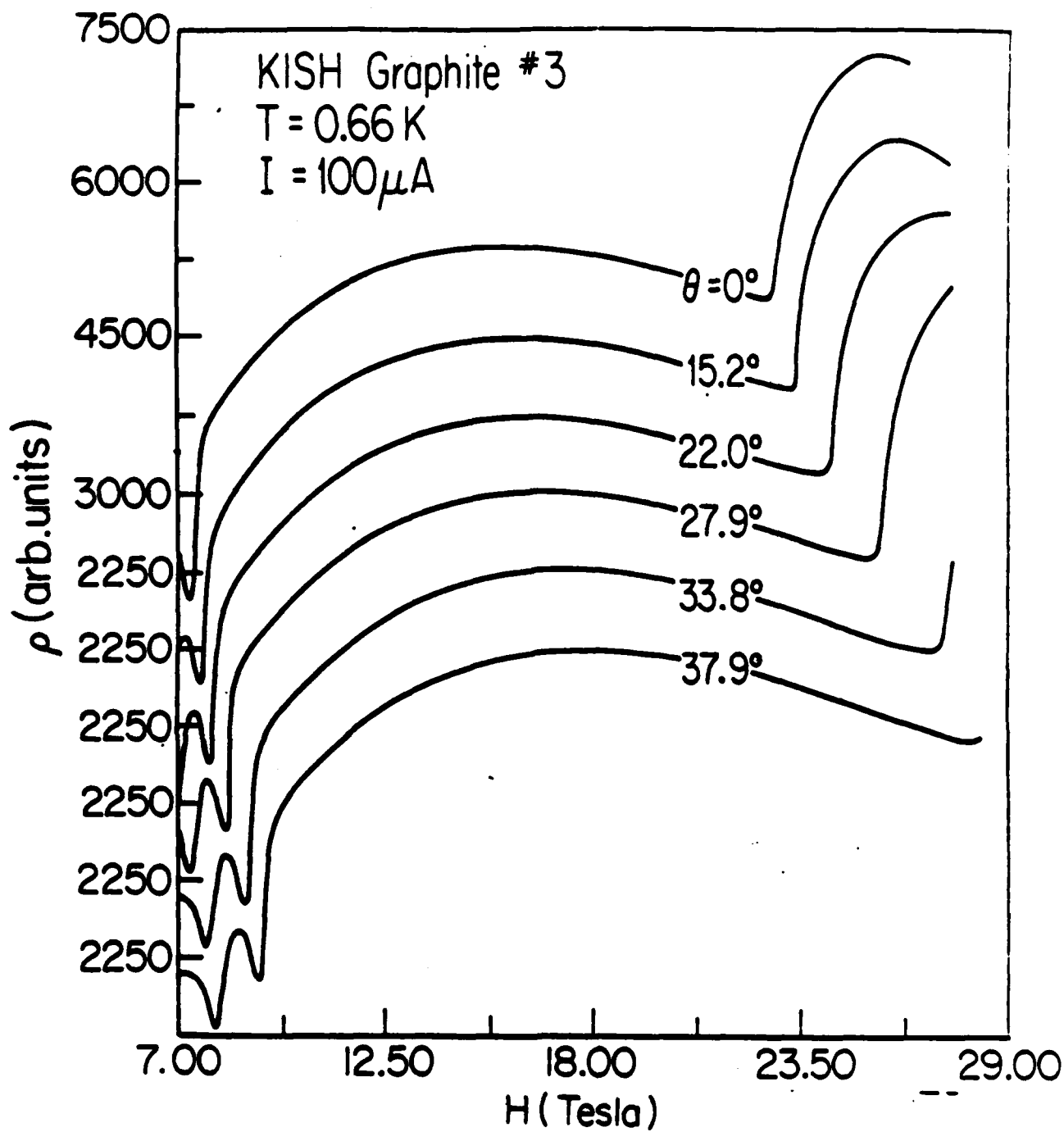


Fig. 3

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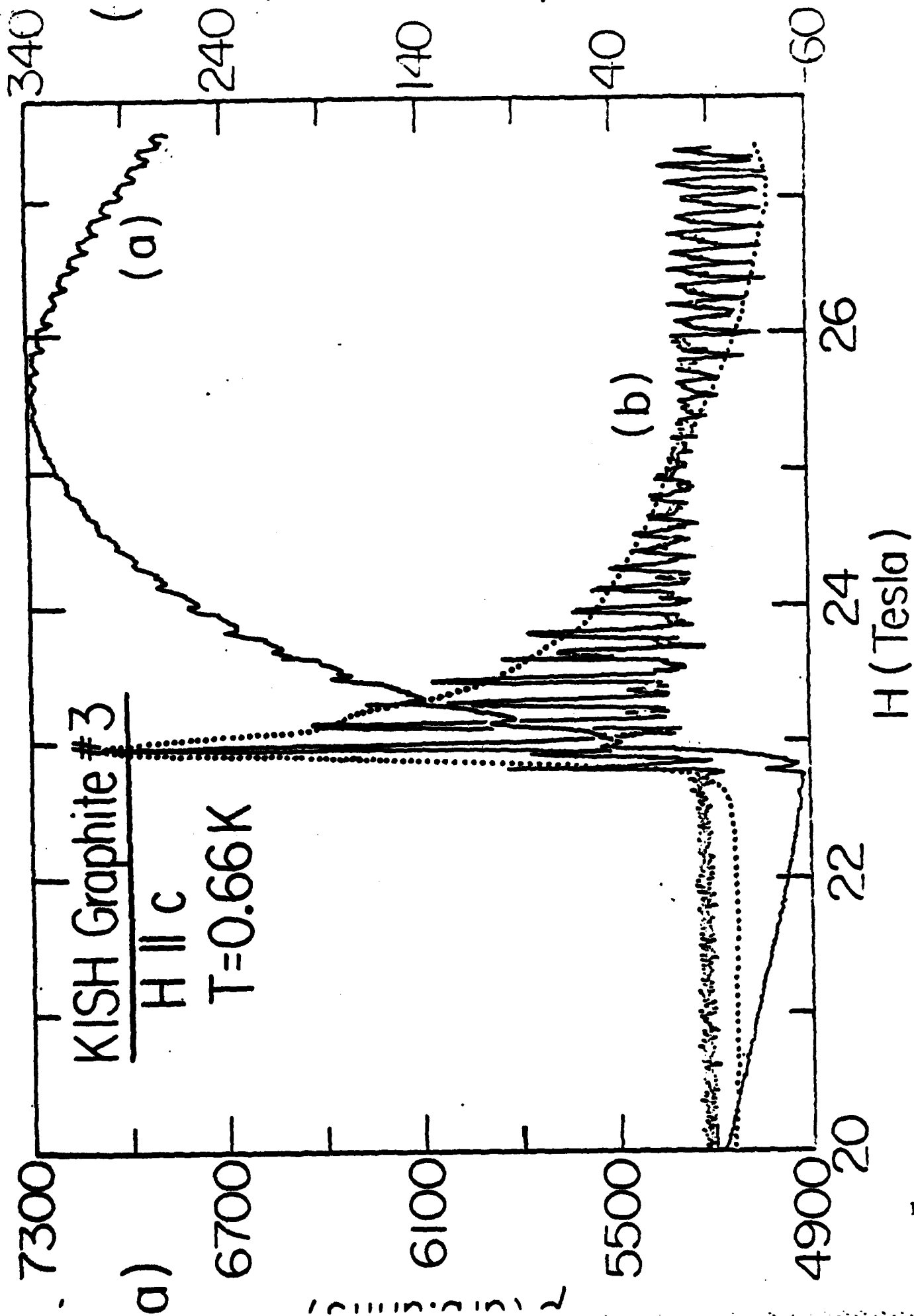


Fig. 4

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